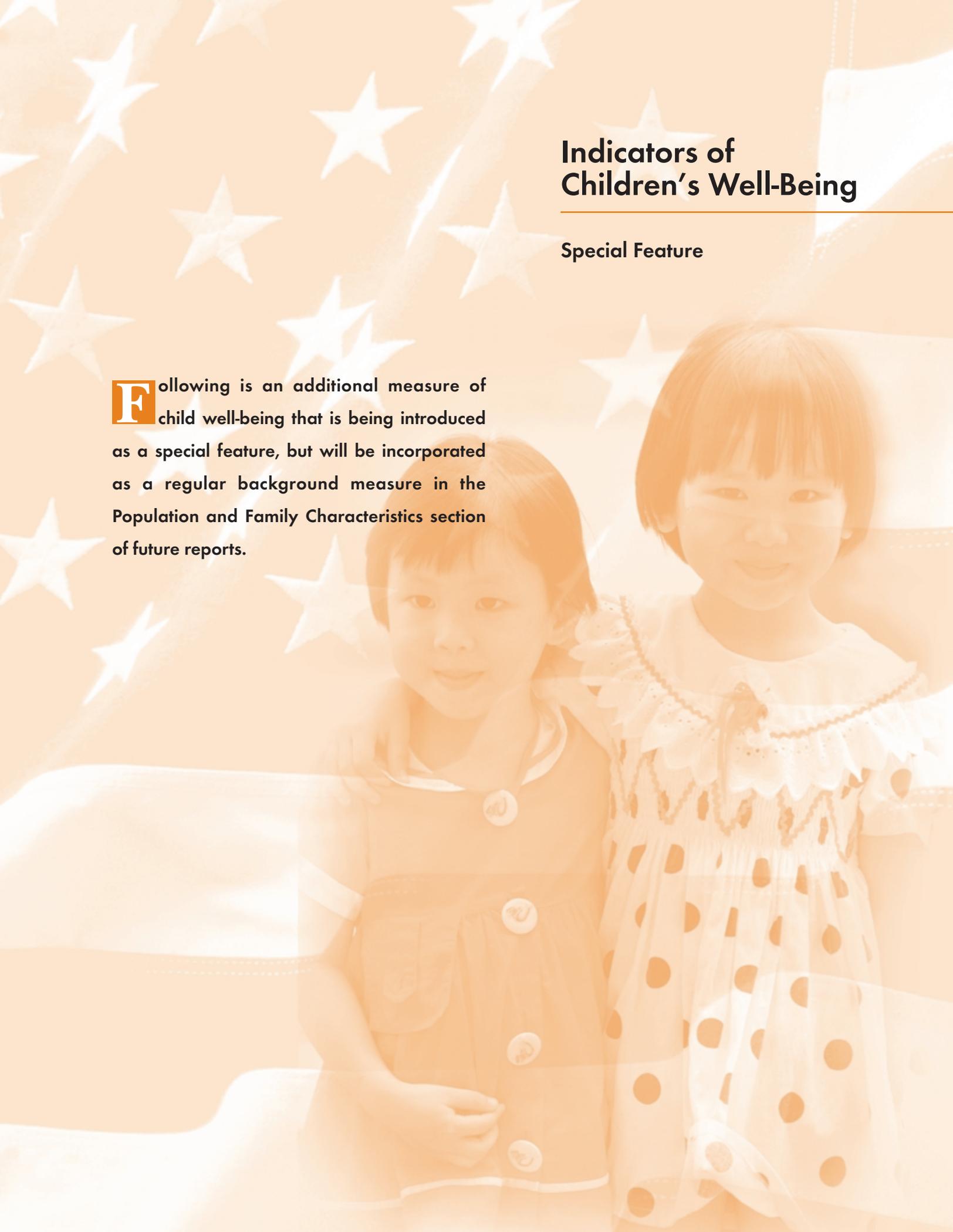


Indicators of Children's Well-Being

Special Feature

Following is an additional measure of child well-being that is being introduced as a special feature, but will be incorporated as a regular background measure in the Population and Family Characteristics section of future reports.

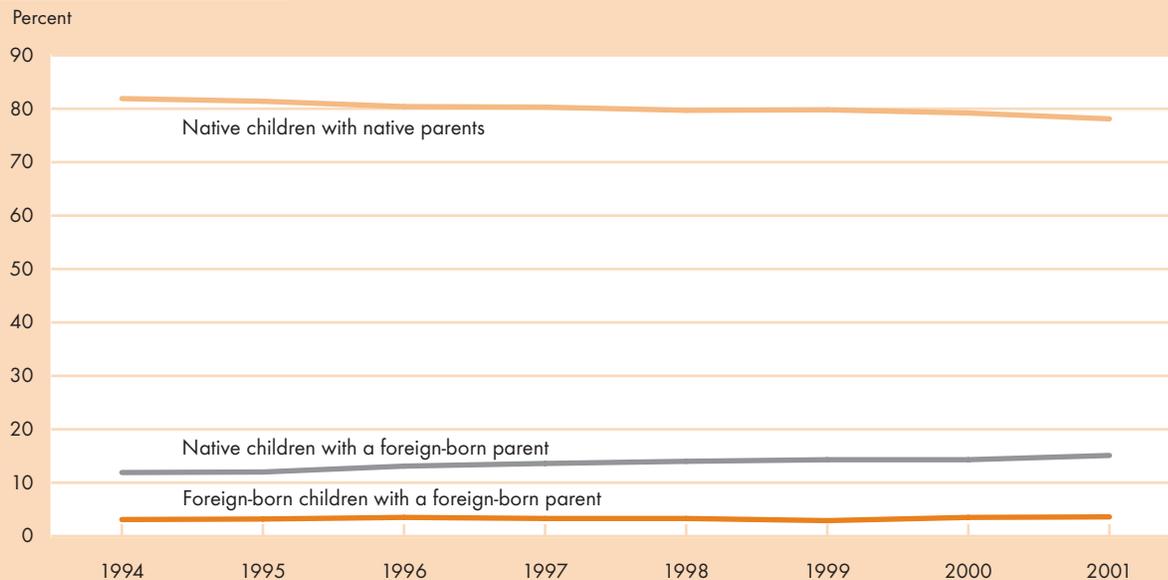


Children of at Least One Foreign-Born Parent

The foreign-born population of the United States has risen dramatically since 1970.⁷⁴ This increase in the past generation has largely been from Latin American and Asian areas, and represents an increase in the diversity of language and cultural backgrounds of children growing up in the United States.⁷⁵ As a result of language and cultural barriers confronting children and their parents, children with foreign-born parents may need additional resources both at school and at home to successfully progress in school and transition to adulthood. Data on the nativity of the population have been available from the Current Population Survey since 1994 and from the Decennial Census since 1850.⁷⁶

Indicator SPECIAL

Percentage of children under age 18 by nativity of child and parents, 1994-2001



NOTE: Native parents means that all of the parents that the child lives with are native born, while foreign-born means that one or both of the child's parents are foreign-born. Anyone with United States citizenship at birth is considered native, which includes persons born in the U.S., in U.S. outlying areas, and persons born abroad with at least one American parent. Includes all children under age 18 except children in group quarters. Children living in households with no parents present are not shown in this figure, but are included in the bases for the percentages.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, March Current Population Survey.

- In 1994, 15 percent of children living in the U.S. lived with at least one parent who was foreign-born. In 2001, this percentage had increased to 19 percent.
- In 2001, 15 percent of children were native children with at least one foreign-born parent, and 4 percent were foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent.
- The percentage of children whose parents have less than a high school diploma is much higher among children with at least one foreign-born parent than among children with native parents. In 2001, 42 percent of foreign-born children with at least one foreign-born parent had a parent with less than a high school degree, compared with 35 percent of native children with at least one foreign-born parent and 11 percent of native children with native parents.
- In 2001, foreign-born children with foreign-born parents were more likely than native children with foreign-born parents to live below the poverty level, 28 and 20 percent, respectively.
- Children with a foreign-born parent more often live in central cities than children with native parents. In 2001, 47 percent of foreign-born children with a foreign-born parent lived in central cities, 41 percent of native children with at least one foreign-born parent lived in central cities, and only 25 percent of native children of native parents lived in central cities.
- Children with at least one foreign-born parent, regardless of their own nativity status, more often lived in households that included relatives who were not their parents. In 2001, about 32 percent of children with at least one foreign-born parent lived with any other adult relatives, compared with only 18 percent of children with native parents.

Bullets contain references to data that can be found in Table SPECIAL on page 114-115. Endnotes begin on page 59.